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BOROUGH OF WESTON - SUPER - MARE

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1958

Including the
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND THE METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

B O R O U G H O F W E S T O N - S U P E R - M A R E

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
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Including the
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND THE METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

B O R O U G H O F W E S T O N - S U P E R - M A R E

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(January to May 1958)

Chairman

COUNCILLOR LT.-COL. G.C.G. GREY

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR H.S. ALLEN

ALDERMAN H. DODGSON, C.C.
ALDERMAN D.H. MILLER-BARSTOW, M.A.
COUNCILLOR N.W. HASKINS
COUNCILLOR R. IVENS
COUNCILLOR G.A. PARROTT

ALDERMAN A.J. HEYBYRNE
COUNCILLOR L.G. EDWARDS
COUNCILLOR L. HOLTBY, C.C.
COUNCILLOR E.B. MOORE
COUNCILLOR CAPT. J.L. TREVITT

(May to December 1958)

Chairman

COUNCILLOR LT.-COL. G.C.G. GREY

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR H.S. ALLEN

ALDERMAN H. DODGSON, C.C.
ALDERMAN A.J. HEYBYRNE
COUNCILLOR N.W. HASKINS
COUNCILLOR R. IVENS
COUNCILLOR G.A. PARROTT

ALDERMAN G.W. COUCH
COUNCILLOR L.G. EDWARDS
COUNCILLOR L. HOLTBY, C.C.
COUNCILLOR E.B. MOORE
COUNCILLOR CAPT. J.L. TREVITT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health	...	D. McGowan
Chief Public Health Inspector	...	I.A. Stephenson (died November 1958)
Senior Additional Public Health Inspector	...	G.P. Lawrence
Public Health Inspectors	...	S. Joules
	...	E. Knowles
	...	J. Richards
Abattoir Superintendent and Public Health Inspector	...	W.W. White
Clerical Staff	...	5

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

THE TOWN HALL,

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
The Borough of Weston-super-Mare.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department in 1958.

The Statistical Section shows satisfactory figures for the year, but I hope the members of the Council will excuse the rather complicated table on page 7 illustrating the fall in various mortality rates in the Borough in the last ten years. I felt that if I stated in the text of the Report that the Rates (not the Treasurer's "Rates") for Weston-super-Mare were behaving in a different manner from those of England and Wales as a whole, it was only right that I should give the actual figures, so that anyone who knows anything about statistical methods could disagree with my conclusions, or agree with them.

I have described some of the problems which have to be faced in dealing with the welfare of old people. One of the Borough Council's increasing responsibilities in this connection will be the provision of suitable housing for old people. Much has already been done in providing bungalows and flats, and the latest schemes at Eton Lodge and Clifford House are a distinct advance on anything of a similar nature which has been done previously in the town.

In the environmental services, the most important events of the year were the beginning of actual work on the new main drainage scheme and the opening of the treatment works for the new water supply at Banwell.

The response to the poliomyelitis immunisation campaign during the year was not as good as one might have expected, but the indications are that the number of people asking for immunisation in 1959 appears to be more satisfactory. No cases of poliomyelitis were notified in 1958, but it is unlikely that this was due to the immunisation campaign at this early stage in its progress.

I referred in last year's Report to the sad death of Mr. I.A. Stephenson, who gave many years faithful service to the Borough as Chief Public Health Inspector. I am sure that Mr. G.P. Lawrence will be a worthy successor to Mr. Stephenson.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Committee with which the Health Department is associated and the Officers and Staff of the Council for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID MCGOWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (including foreshore) ... 7,006 acres
 Population - Registrar-General's estimate
 for mid-1958 ... 40,500

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1958

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	262	287	549
Illegitimate ...	7	4	11
	<u>269</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>560</u>

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) = 13.7

Corrected Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.13) = 15.5

Stillbirths

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	2	3	5
Illegitimate ...	-	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths) = 10.6

Total live and stillbirths ... 566

Infant Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	6	5	11
Illegitimate ...	-	1	1
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)

Legitimate ...	19.6
Illegitimate ...	1.8
Total ...	21.4

Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 14.3

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births = 2.0%

Maternal Deaths = Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths) = Nil.

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
316	366	682

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) = 16.7

Corrected Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.72) = 12.0

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The Registrar-General gives the corrected number of live births in the town as 560 (269 boys and 291 girls), this being 29 more than in 1957. Of these births, 11 were illegitimate (7 boys and 4 girls). This is 2.0 per cent of the total live births, as compared with 5.3 per cent in 1957.

The crude birth rate for 1958 was 137, and when the comparability factor (1.13) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 15.5 per 1,000 of the total population, compared with 14.0 in 1957. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 16.4.

BIRTH RATES

Year	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
England and Wales	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7	16.1	16.4
Weston-super-Mare	14.1	13.0	13.1	11.5	13.4	13.0	14.5	13.3	14.0	15.5
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births in Weston-s-Mare	7.3	5.7	5.8	4.6	6.0	5.2	5.4	2.3	5.3	2.0

STILLBIRTHS

The registered number of stillbirths in 1958 was 6 (2 males and 4 females), of which one was illegitimate, thus giving a stillbirth rate of 10.6 per 1,000 total births.

INFANT MORTALITY

Twelve deaths occurred in children under the age of one year in 1958, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 21.4 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales as a whole was 23.1. Eight of the twelve deaths occurred in the first month, and again prematurity was the largest single cause of death, accounting for six of the twelve deaths, while congenital defects caused three deaths. Only two deaths were due to infection, although one child who died from bronchopneumonia also had a congenital heart defect.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the whole country has been steadily declining since the war, and most of the infant lives which have been saved, have been in the age group between one month and 12 months. The fall in deaths under one month has not been so dramatic, and in fact the fall in deaths during the first week in life has been very little. In addition, the Stillbirth Rate has not been reduced for a number of years. Much research is now going on into the causes of death in the first week of life and the causes of stillbirth, and a new "Rate" has been devised to help in the study of these deaths. It is known as the Perinatal Mortality Rate and is the measure of the number of stillbirths plus the number of deaths of infants in the first week of life per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.

Although this Rate does not appear to be falling much for the Country as a whole, it does appear to be falling more rapidly for Weston-super-Mare. The comparatively small number of births and deaths in Weston-super-Mare, however, produces fairly wide annual fluctuations in the Infant Mortality Rate, Stillbirth Rate and Perinatal Mortality Rate and deductions from such small figures have to be made with care. The general trend of these figures over a number of years, however, can be worked out by a mathematical calculation (known statistically as the regression coefficient), and it would appear that these rates have fallen more rapidly during the past eleven years in Weston than in the Country as a whole.

The table on page 7 shows the changes in the different rates in both Weston-super-Mare and England and Wales from 1948 to 1958.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths due to maternal causes in 1958.

DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the total assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General was 682 (316 males and 366 females). This is 78 more than in 1957 and gives a crude death rate of 16.7 per 1,000 of population. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the local death rate was 12.0 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales as a whole.

DEATH RATES

Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
England and Wales	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7	11.5	11.7
Adjusted D.R. Weston-super-Mare	12.1	11.2	9.8	10.0	10.6	11.4	10.7	12.0

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1958

Ages at Death in years	Males	Females	Total	Difference from 1957 figures
Under 1	6	6	12	+7
1 -	1	-	1	+1
5 -	2	-	2	0
15 -	4	1	5	0
25 -	3	8	11	-8
45 -	67	44	111	-6
65 - 69	41	38	79	+28
Total under 70 years	124	97	221	+20
70 -	57	48	105	+2
75 -	53	82	135	+33
80 -	43	69	112	+13
85 -	29	36	65	-3
90 -	8	26	34	+7
95 -	2	8	10	+7
100 -	-	-	-	-1
Total over 70 years	192	269	461	+58
TOTALS	316	366	682	+78

CAUSES OF DEATH 1958

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	10	17
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	6	21
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	18	18
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	6	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	28	48
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	44	63	107
18. Coronary disease, angina	82	66	148
19. Hypertension with heart disease	11	7	18
20. Other heart disease	46	78	124
21. Other circulatory disease	14	17	31
22. Influenza	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	7	11	18
24. Bronchitis	16	4	20
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	7	2	9
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-	5
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	28	49
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	4	9
34. All other accidents	6	6	12
35. Suicide	-	4	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
All Causes - Total	316	366	682
Deaths of infants under 1 year			
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	6	6	12

INFANT DEATHS, STILLBIRTHS AND EARLY NEONATAL DEATHS, WESTON-SUPER-MARE AND ENGLAND & WALES 1948 - 1958

YEAR	Infant Deaths W.s.M.	Infant Mortality Rate W.s.M.	Infant Mortality Rate E. & W.	Stillbirths W.s.M.	Stillbirth Rate W.s.M.	Stillbirth Rate E. & W.	Early Neonatal Deaths W.s.M.	Perinatal Mortality W.s.M.	Perinatal Mortality E. & W.
1948	15	24.1	33.9	19	30.6	23.2	9	45.1	38.5
1949	13	23.1	32.4	13	22.6	22.7	6	33.3	38.0
1950	17	32.5	29.6	19	35.1	22.7	14	61.8	37.7
1951	10	19.2	29.7	12	22.5	23.0	2	26.3	38.1
1952	14	30.7	27.6	14	29.8	22.7	6	43.0	37.5
1953	10	18.8	26.8	11	20.7	22.5	7	33.9	37.0
1954	10	21.7	25.4	14	29.5	23.5	6	42.5	38.1
1955	6	11.6	24.9	9	17.1	23.2	2	21.0	37.6
1956	12	25.3	23.7	12	24.7	22.9	10	45.8	36.8
1957	5	9.4	23.1	6	11.2	22.9	4	18.7	36.2
1958	12	21.4	22.6	6	10.6	21.6	7	23.0	35.1
b. (Regression coefficient)		-1.07	-1.11		-1.73	-0.04		-2.04	-0.28

INFANT DEATHS 1958

	Under 1 day	1 - 2 Days	2 - 7 Days	Total under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	3	2	1	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
Spina Bifida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital heart defect	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Meningitis (possibly influenzal)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchopneumonia (with congenital heart defect)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Fibrocystic Disease of Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Intracranial haemorrhage	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	3	2	2	7	-	1	8	1	1	1	1	12

INFANT MORTALITY RATES, 1945 - 1958

YEAR	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
England and Wales	46	43	41	34	32	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.4	24.9	23.8	23.0	22.5
No. of deaths	19	25	24	15	13	17	10	14	10	10	6	12	5	12
Weston- super- Mare I.M.R.	30.7	40.9	34.8	24.1	23.1	32.5	19.2	30.7	18.8	21.7	11.6	25.3	9.4	21.4

INQUESTS

<u>Causes of Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Natural Causes	4	1	5
Occupational Causes:-			
Pneumonoconiosis	2	-	2
Accidents, directly or indirectly:-			
Falls in home	-	2	2
Falls outside home	2	-	2
Road accidents	5	4	9
Burns	-	2	2
Struck by railway engine	1	-	1
Coal Gas Poisoning	-	1	1
Suicide:-			
Coal Gas Poisoning	-	1	1
Barbiturate poisoning	-	2	2
Drowning	-	1	1
Drowning - open verdict	3	-	3
	17	14	31

POPULATION

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF POPULATION IN
WESTON-SUPER-MARE 1939 - 1958.

(1931 Census 31,706)	1948 ... 39,710
1939 ... 35,280	1949 ... 39,830
1940 ... 40,810	1950 ... 40,210
1941 ... 44,500	1951 ... 39,660 (Census - 40,396)
1942 ... 41,250	1952 ... 39,540
1943 ... 38,100	1953 ... 39,650
1944 ... 37,930	1954 ... 39,990
1945 ... 37,470	1955 ... 40,330
1946 ... 38,890	1956 ... 40,300
1947 ... 39,590	1957 ... 40,600
	1958 ... 40,800

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

I. HOSPITALS

The hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents of the town and surrounding districts are administered by the South-West Regional Hospital Board, through the Weston-super-Mare Hospital Management Committee. The hospitals situated in the town are:-

Weston-super-Mare General Hospital
Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital
Drove Road Hospital
Royal Hospital

With the steadily increasing population of the district, the existing hospitals are finding it extremely difficult to deal with the demand for beds. This is especially the case for general surgical and geriatric admissions and although many additions and alterations have been made to the existing hospitals during the past ten years, the position is still most unsatisfactory.

The South-West Regional Hospital Board recognise the fact that a new general hospital will eventually be required, but owing to financial restrictions and other difficulties, it is not expected that a new hospital could be erected in the foreseeable future. They propose however, that during the next two to five years, additional building and adaptations to existing hospitals will increase the number of beds available for all types of cases from 320 to 420.

Such proposals, include the provision of additional wings at the General Hospital, adaptations at the Royal Hospital and, if possible, a new three-storey block at the Royal Hospital. The adaptations at the Royal Hospital will provide 40 additional Geriatric beds, and the new block would provide for 45 - 50 Obstetric and general medical practitioner Maternity beds, and another 40 - 50 Geriatric beds. When the new block has been completed, Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital and Drove Road Geriatric Hospital will be closed. In addition Shute Shelve Hospital at Axbridge, which deals with post-operative cases from the General Hospital, will also be closed.

In the provision of beds for the aged sick in the area the net gain should be between 40 and 50, and this should alleviate the present long waiting lists considerably.

Maternity cases are at present provided for in Ashcombe House Hospital which has 20 beds, but these are, generally speaking, for the normal case and, where complications arise, Southmead Hospital in Bristol, deals with the abnormal case. Although Southmead Hospital can deal with any type of obstetrical abnormality, it is felt that its distance from Weston and the fact that at certain times of the year, e.g. peak holiday periods, it is difficult to get to quickly, makes it essential that facilities for dealing with every type of abnormality should be provided in the town. The Regional Hospital Board realise this, and as a temporary measure until the new Obstetric unit is built at the Royal Hospital, are providing a small unit (7 or 8 beds) at the General Hospital, and will also provide the services of a Consultant Obstetrician.

During 1958, 538 live births were registered in the town, and of these 422 occurred in Ashcombe House, 15 in private nursing homes, and 101 at home. Of the 422 babies born in Ashcombe House, 313 were children of Weston mothers, the remaining 109 being children of mothers from other districts.

II. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The following services in the Borough are administered by the Somerset County Council

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Bournville Public Hall	...	Monday	(weekly)	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
3 Nova Road	...	Tuesday	(weekly)	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Baytree Road	...	Wednesday	(weekly)	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Moorland Road	...	Thursday	(1st & 3rd in the month)	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC ATTENDANCES, 1958

	Bournville	Nova Road	Baytree Road	Moorland Road	Total
Total attendance of children in 1958	2,453	2,653	3,171	1,243	9,520
No. of individual children who attended in 1958	342	344	418	192	1,296
No. of individual mothers who attended in 1958	254	271	354	153	1,032

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

There are five Health Visitors in the town, and the following is a summary of the Home Visiting work in 1957.

Visits to Ante-Natal cases	...	...	...	162
Visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	...	3,183
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	...	...	...	5,799
Visits to school children	...	...	...	1,004
Visits re infectious diseases	...	...	...	469
Visits to old people	...	...	...	248
Other visits	...	...	...	168

10,033

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE

Home Nursing is provided by this service, and the value of the work done by the District Nurses cannot be praised too highly. They deal with about 1,000 new cases each year. The headquarters of the District Nursing Service is now at 39 Lower Bristol Road.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The work of the District Nurses is ably backed by the Home Help Service, which provides domestic help in cases of sickness and for old people.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The North-West Somerset Divisional Executive Area covers Weston-super-Mare and Axbridge Rural District. There are about 9,000 school children in the area in schools administered by the Education Authority, about 6,000 of whom attend schools in Weston-super-Mare. During 1958, 2,355 had a routine medical inspection in school, and in addition there were 1,058 special examinations and 1,618 re-examinations. Of the 2,355 children who had routine medical inspection, 203 were found to require treatment for some defect (apart from dental defect).

The Health Centre at 3 Neva Road houses an Infant Welfare Clinic, Minor Ailments Clinic, Speech Clinic, Ante-Natal Clinic, Child Guidance Clinic and the Family Planning Clinic, in addition to being the headquarters of the Home Help Service and the Mental Health Officer.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The County Council provides an Ambulance and Hospital Car Service through the agency of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade. The group headquarters for the area is at 41 and 43 Oxford Street, Weston-super-Mare.

III. LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES

FIRST AID POST AND CENTRE FOR LOST CHILDREN

The First Aid Post was again staffed during the summer season by members of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade, and the Centre for Lost Children was in charge of a Matron appointed by the Police.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

In previous Reports, I have stressed the importance of the welfare services for the old in a town like Weston-super-Mare where the proportion of the population who have reached retiring age is so high. On the whole, the services which are available for old people in their own home are satisfactory, e.g. nursing, home help and "meals on wheels" services, but where the old person needs admission either to hospital or to a County Council Home for the aged, the present situation is not satisfactory. With regard to hospital accommodation for the aged sick person, I have described in the section of this Report on Hospitals what the Regional Hospital Board intend to do in the near future.

Regarding County Council Homes for Old People, the County Council Welfare Committee have opened many new Homes throughout the County during the last ten years, but the demand for places in these Homes still cannot be satisfied. This is especially the case where ground floor accommodation is required, as many old people, although fit enough to live in a Home, cannot climb stairs, and therefore may have to wait a long time before a suitable place can be found for them. This shortage of ground floor rooms also adds to the difficulties of the geriatric hospitals, as there are, at times, a number of old people occupying beds in these hospitals who could be transferred to County Council Homes if suitable ground floor bedrooms could be found.

Another problem which the County Council Welfare Officers have to deal with is a much more subtle and difficult one. It deals with the question of the so-called social relationships of certain old people. When twenty to thirty old people live under the same roof, have their meals together and spend much of their time together, it is essential for the harmony of the Home that they should, as far as possible, understand and tolerate each other's little failings and idiosyncrasies. It is a sad fact, however, that some old people, especially if they have been living by themselves, become more introspective and tend to isolate themselves from other humans. Their personal habits and manners deteriorate so that if they are admitted to a community of other old people, as in an Old People's Home, they cannot adjust themselves easily to the change, and trouble may start. They may be objectionable in their habits and quarrelsome with the other residents, and before long an unhappy atmosphere may be created. The Welfare Officer may have a difficult task therefore in trying to fit such an old person into a suitable home. Very often it is this type of old lady (the sex is usually female) who give most concern to the Health Authorities and the neighbours when they are living in their own home. Wherever possible, they are allowed to live in their own home, but when the time comes for them to be taken into the care of the Local Authority, it is difficult to fit them into a suitable place.

With regard to the home services, the home nursing and home help services are used to their full extent, but the excellent "meals on wheels" service run by the W.V.S. is not used as much as it could be. This service will deliver on five days each week a full cooked dinner to the home at a very cheap rate - in fact much cheaper than it possibly could be done if it were prepared at home. Yet some old people object to paying the small daily amount for the meal. They would rather pay more for buns and a cup of tea in a cafe. This is a service which could be expanded with great benefit to many old people, as it provides a balanced diet which many lack.

The Old People's Welfare Committee, which consists of representatives from the various statutory and voluntary organisations dealing with the welfare of old people, has recently started a laundry service for the sick who are being nursed at home. In the winter months, the problem of supplying adequate clean bed-linen to bed-ridden patients causes great concern both to relatives and to the district nurses, especially where the patient is incontinent. The drying of large quantities of washing in a short time is almost impossible in many homes during the winter and the ordinary commercial laundry services take too long to return the laundered articles. By arrangement with one of the laundry firms in the town, the W.V.S. can now collect dirty linen from the house, have it washed, dried and ironed, and return it to the home in 48 hours.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47.

This section of the National Assistance Act provides for the removal to a suitable place of persons who are in need of care and attention, through age or disease, and who are living in insanitary conditions. This step is only taken in extreme cases, and only after repeated persuasion has failed.

One case was dealt with under this section of the Act during the year. The person concerned was an old lady, who, having no home of her own, wandered the streets and slept at night in such places as the railway station, telephone kiosks, and shelters on the sea front. She absolutely refused to go into a County Council Home, so action had to be taken under the National Assistance Act. She is still in one of the County Council's Homes for Old People, and although it is doubtful whether she is happy about it, at least she can grumble in comfort.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

During the year, the refuse tip at Old Junction Road was filled to capacity, and work was started on the adjacent fields which were acquired for this purpose a few years ago. The top spit of soil is removed by the bulldozer first, the refuse is spread over the land to a depth of 9 feet, then the top spit is replaced on top of the refuse. This controlled tipping is carried out in a very satisfactory manner and there were no complaints of nuisance from smell or vermin, despite the fact that the separate collection of kitchen waste and paper for salvage is no longer done, as it was found to be uneconomical. Kitchen waste and paper are now tipped with the rest of the refuse.

WATER SUPPLIES

The quality of the raw water from Banwell Spring showed the usual fluctuations, but the treated water was always satisfactory. In November, after exceptionally heavy rains, a large amount of sediment appeared in the spring water for a few days, but the bacteriological counts did not show any undue deterioration. As a precaution, however, the chlorine content was stepped up temporarily. During the year, 52 samples of untreated water and 127 samples of treated water were examined bacteriologically. 13 samples of the untreated water were found to be unsatisfactory, but every sample of treated water was satisfactory.

The Supplementary Water Supply Scheme started in 1956 with the laying of the 16" diameter main from Sidcot to Banwell. Work was commenced in 1957 on the new Treatment Works at Winthill, Banwell, which were officially opened by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (J.R. Bevins, Esq., M.P.) in October, 1958. The town is now in the happy position that it can be supplied with sufficient treated water during the summer months when the Banwell Spring usually drops in quantity and when the population of the town is greatly increased by visitors.

In the town itself, various extensions to the water supplies were carried out, mainly to new private housing development estates.

Negotiations are still proceeding with the Bristol Waterworks Company with regard to the taking over of the Water Undertaking by that Company, but it is unlikely that the transfer will take place before April, 1960.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Construction work commenced on the new Main Drainage Scheme in January 1958, and work continued on the Black Rock Outfall Sewer throughout the year. This contract is scheduled for completion by the middle of 1959, and the cost of the contract including the steel pipes is about £250,000.

Contracts have been placed for the machinery required within the Pumping Station amounting to approximately £120,000. The total cost of the whole Scheme is estimated at about £1½ million.

HOUSING

During 1958, the Local Authority erected 84 houses, 74 of which were for slum clearance purposes and 10 for other purposes. In 1957, 232 houses were erected by the Council. Private enterprise built 175 houses in 1958 compared with 174 in 1957. At the end of the year there were 782 applicants on the waiting list for Council Houses, compared with 853 at the end of 1957.

The number of post-war houses erected in the Borough from 1st April, 1945, to 31st December, 1958, is as follows:-

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| (a) Erected by the Local Authority | ... | ... | 1,851 |
| (b) Erected by Private Enterprise | ... | ... | 1,280 |

During 1959, the Council intend to build 242 new houses, 57 for slum clearance purposes and the remaining 185 for other purposes.

The number of applications received in 1958 for Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts, 1949 - 1954, was 75. At the end of the year, 34 of these applications had been approved, 21 were rejected and 20 were still under consideration.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1958.

	Total cases notified
Diphtheria	-
Scarlet Fever	9
Erysipelas	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	7
Measles	567
Whooping Cough	140
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Dysentery	2
Food Poisoning	7
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-
Pneumonia (all types)	3
Meningococcal Infection	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Smallpox	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	30
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	2

Measles and whooping cough were the only notifiable diseases which reached epidemic proportions during the year, 567 cases of measles and 140 cases of whooping cough being notified. No deaths were caused by these two diseases.

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

In 1957, only 11 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, but in 1958 the total rose to 30. Three deaths were due to lung tuberculosis.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE

I. POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

The Minister of Health introduced a scheme for immunisation against poliomyelitis in 1957, but owing to production difficulties, the amount of vaccine available during that year was very small, and in Somerset only 1,066 children received the primary immunisation of two injections, while in Weston-super-Mare 64 children received the vaccine. Supplies became more plentiful in 1958 and the following table shows the numbers who received a primary course (two injections) of the vaccine during the year:-

	Children (Born 1943 - 1958)	Young Persons (Born 1933 - 1942)	Expectant Mothers	Other Priority Groups	TOTAL
Weston-super-Mare	2,765	26	65	52	2,908
Somerset	43,092	248	799	443	44,572

In addition to the above, 52 persons received a third or reinforcing dose during the year.

II. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS (B.C.G. VACCINATION)

In 1956, the County Council, as the Local Health Authority, introduced a scheme for the vaccination of children against tuberculosis. B.C.G. (Bacillus Calmetti-Guerin) vaccine is used and the offer is extended to all thirteen-year old children. The children are first given a skin test with tuberculin (Heaf Test) and if the skin reaction is negative, they are then vaccinated. Children showing a positive Heaf Test do not require vaccination, as the positive reaction shows that they have already had some infection with tuberculosis and therefore have developed some immunity. A positive test does not necessarily mean that these children have active tuberculosis, as in the great majority of cases they have overcome the infection themselves and the disease is inactive, but these children and other members of the family are offered the chance of having a chest X-ray, to make sure that there is no active infection in the family.

357 thirteen-year old children in Weston-super-Mare had the preliminary Heaf Test and of these 51 were found to be positive (i.e. 14.3%). The remaining 306 negative reactors were vaccinated.

III. DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified in 1958 and since the end of the war only four cases have occurred in the town. The last death from diphtheria occurred in 1942. During the year, 413 children received primary immunisation against diphtheria. 362 children were immunised against whooping cough.

IV. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

230 primary vaccinations and 21 re-vaccinations against smallpox were carried out by private general practitioners in the Borough during 1958. The following table, giving the age distribution of persons vaccinated shows that only 198 children under the age of 1 year received primary vaccination.
(Number of live births in 1958 = 560)

Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1958.

Age Groups	Under 1		1		2 - 4		5 - 14		15 & over		Total	
	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
Weston-super-Mare	198	-	15	-	2	-	9	3	6	18	230	21
Somerset County	3451	-	252	2	160	11	168	60	134	321	4165	394

P = Primary Vaccination
R = Re-vaccination

R E P O R T
O F
C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
The Borough of Weston-super-Mare.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the sanitary administration of the Borough of Weston-super-Mare for the year, 1958.

It is with deep regret that I recall the death of Mr. Stephenson in November of this year. Chief Public Health Inspector to the Council since 1945, his contribution to the promotion of public health in the Borough was invaluable.

Steady progress was made during the year in making fit houses which, through lack of attention over a number of years, had fallen into disrepair.

A considerable amount of advisory work has been carried out at food premises and although much improvement has been attained, a great deal still remains to be done. The emphasis on clean food propaganda must be mainly directed towards improving the personal cleanliness standard in food handling and preparation.

The throughput at the Abattoir was considerably increased by the slaughter of well over 3,000 cattle under the Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme. The emaciated condition of the majority of these animals revealed that the Scheme was long overdue. New Slaughterhouse Regulations were introduced during the year designed to secure the observance of sanitary conditions in connection with the construction and operation of slaughterhouses and the handling of meat therein. The provision of stunning pens for the slaughter of adult cattle will be made compulsory after an appointed day.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Chairman and Public Health Committee for the help they have given me during the year, and to express my appreciation to the members of the staff for their loyalty and co-operation.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G.P. LAWRENCE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Housing conditions continue to receive a great deal of attention. Investigations of complaints and routine house to house inspection has resulted in the repair of many substandard properties. The number of applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act reveals that many landlords are still reluctant to raise their rents to an approved maximum for fear of eventually being faced with a heavy expenditure on repairs.

Housing Act, 1957

Houses included in Clearance area for which						
Orders are still to be made	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of houses demolished under Section 42						
(Clearance Areas)	...	...	...	...	...	56
Number of houses demolished or closed under						
Section 17 (individual Unfits)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9	...	...	...	...	...	13

Improvement Grants

Applications received	...	...	...	...	...	75
Applications approved	...	...	...	...	...	34
Applications rejected or withdrawn	...	...	...	...	...	21

Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

Number of applications received	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Certificates issued	...	...	...	...	...	9

Housing Inspections

Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	361
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Council House applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	219

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There are now 12 licensed caravan sites in the Borough. A new residential site at Oldmixon for the families of employees of contractors engaged on the main drainage scheme was licensed during the year. The site is being maintained satisfactorily. Many of the licensed sites in the Borough could be considerably improved as regards sanitary arrangements and amenities. There are a large number of substandard caravans unsuitable for holiday accommodation still on the sites. These have been used for a number of years and are poorly equipped. They must now be replaced by modern caravans of a proprietary make.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

A new Sparkhall Vapour Gas Disinfector was installed at the Mendip Road Depot during the year. Disinfection is carried out by using a compound of formaldehyde gas. The plant proved invaluable for the disinfection of all bedding and clothing.

The number of rooms disinfested during the year was 9.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Routine observations were continued throughout the year of the possibility of dark smoke being emitted from the industrial chimneys in the Borough. By and large the occupiers were taking the best practical means to prevent excessive smoke emission, but in those cases where there was a breach of the Regulations it was invariably due to the use of low grade fuel.

The number of smoke observations made during the year was 89.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Warfarin, the anti-coagulant poison, is now used extensively for the elimination of rat infestation and is proving highly successful. The sewers in the Borough were test baited during the year and as a result two maintenance treatments were carried out in the Spring and Autumn. Infestation was not so heavy as in 1957.

The refuse tip off Winterstoke Road received regular attention during the year.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (incl. Council Houses	All other (incl. Business Premises)	Totals of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agricul- ture
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	34	15,025	650	16,709	16
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	4	538	19	561	-
(b) Survey under the Act	5	14	8	27	-
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	-	8	-	8	-
3. Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections	61	761	51	873	-
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. 2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	3	85	13	101	-
(b) Mice (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	-	444	5	449	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 4) treated by the Local Authority	3	526	18	547	-
6. Total treatments carried out - including re-treatments	20	638	33	691	-
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural work	-	-	1	1	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTION FOR the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	69	54	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1. in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	188	249	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals	257	303	-	-

2. CASES in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	2	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2	2	-	2	-
Inadequate ventilations (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-
Totals	8	8	-	4	-

3. OUTWORK - Section 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list Required by Sec. 110 (1)	Section III Notices Served
Wearing apparel (making, etc. Cleaning and Washing)	3	-

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are 6 premises registered in accordance with Section 2 of the above Act. There are no premises in the Borough to which Section 4 of the Act applies requiring licensing.

4 samples of filling materials were taken during the year and submitted for analysis. All samples were satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The number of premises licensed as Pet Shops in the Borough is now 4. The accommodation provided and the conditions under which the animals are kept were generally satisfactory. No cases of infectious disease such as Hard Pad or Distemper were observed during the inspections.

SHOPS

205 inspections were made during the year under the provisions of the Shops Acts 1934 - 1950, dealing with the health and comfort of shop workers, general closing hours and hours of employment.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926.

Routine inspections were carried out during the year to ascertain whether certain imported goods complied with the provisions of the above Act as to origin or provision of name or trade mark. A trader selling "Canary Tomatoes" as "Empire Tomatoes" was warned that this was a contravention of the above Act. He said he was of the opinion that the Canary Islands were in the British Empire.

ICE CREAM

214 premises are registered for the preparation, storage and sale of ice cream, of which 4 are producers.

112 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and a fairly satisfactory standard was maintained.

5 samples were taken for chemical examination and all proved genuine.

	Total Samples	COLD MIX				HOT MIX			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
January	9	6	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
February	6	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
March	6	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
April	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	8	6	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
June	8	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	17	7	7	2	1	-	-	-	-
August	12	7	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
September	12	4	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
October	11	5	4	2	-	-	-	-	-
November	8	3	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
December	8	5	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	112	64	29	8	5	3	2	1	-
Percentages		57	26	7.1	4.5	2.7	1.8	0.9	

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOOD HYGIENE

In general it can be reported that definite improvements in the hygiene of food handling have been made during the year, and managements and proprietors have, on the whole, been fully co-operative. Efforts were directed towards protecting food on display. More shops being equipped with glass enclosed display cabinets. Some shops, however, particularly grocers shops because of lack of storage accommodation, have their goods stacked in the shop with very little free space available. Standards are, however, generally good. Premises on the whole are well equipped, but the most important factor in food hygiene, is the education and training of the staff and the active participation of the general public; all can be said to be contributing to improved food hygiene standards.

FOOD PREMISES

Number of Food Premises in Area, (excluding registered dairy premises and ice cream premises).

Bakers	...	...	...	17
Butchers	...	...	...	49
Fishmongers	...	...	...	17
Fishfryers	...	...	...	13
Grocers	...	...	...	93
Greengrocers	...	...	...	50
Catering Premises	...	...	...	85
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	46
Hotels and Private Hotels	...	...	...	214

Inspections of Food Premises:-

Abattoir	...	...	...	...	355
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	93
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	392
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	424
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	163
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	103
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	42
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	56
Grocers	...	...	...	...	86
Ice Cream Shops and Premises	...	...	...	...	150
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	28
Foods for Condemnation	...	...	...	...	104
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	142

Samples Taken:-

Bottle rinses	...	...	...	...	60
Drinking Water	...	...	...	...	28
Food	...	...	...	...	250
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	112
Milk	...	...	...	...	274
Rag Flock and Other Filling	...	...	...	...
Material	...	...	...	...	4
Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	95

Unsound Food Condemned in the Town:-

Meat	...	...	...	177 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Cheese	...	...	...	20 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	64 "	Flour	...	...	...	163 "
Bacon	...	...	...	160 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Wholemeal	...	...	...	4 "
Rabbits	...	...	...	56 "	Potatoes	...	...	...	2296 "
Fish	...	...	...	721 "	Gums	...	...	...	56 "
Poultry	...	...	...	11 "	Rice	...	...	...	56 "
					Vermicelli	...	...	...	28 "

Canned Goods:-

Meat	...	...	...	326 cans	Caviar	...	...	...	13 jars
Fruit	...	...	...	854 "	Bovril	...	...	...	1 "
Fish	...	...	...	145 "	Sauces	...	...	...	5 "
Vegetables	...	...	...	290 "	Pickles	...	...	...	87 "
Milk	...	...	...	59 "					
Jam and Marmalade	...	...	...	31 "	Ducks	...	...	...	10
Soups	...	...	...	21 "					
Rice	...	...	...	11 "	Frozen Foods	...	...	...	378 pkts.
Cream	...	...	...	10 "					
Coffee	...	...	...	3 "					
Poultry	...	...	...	5 "					

Disposal of Condemned Foods:-

The above commodities were surrendered voluntarily by the traders concerned and disposed of at the refuse tip.

Food and Drugs Act

The number of samples submitted for analysis for the year 1958 was 150.

No. of Samples	Description of Samples	Result of Analysis	No. of Samples	Description of Samples	Result of Analysis
20	Milks	Genuine	4	Butter	Genuine
5	C.I. Milks	"	3	Margarine	"
1	Bicarbonate of Soda	"	2	White Pepper	"
1	Soup	"	1	Horseradish	"
1	Chicken Broth	"	1	Tomato Juice	"
1	Garlic Perles	"	1	Vienna Sausages	"
1	Slimming Tablets	"	1	Lunch Tongues	"
1	Vyknin	"	1	Crab Paste	"
1	Tincture of Iodine	"	1	Tabasco Puree	Adult.
1	Flip	"	1	Seven Seas	Genuine
1	Alka Seltzer	"	1	Diabetic Plain Chocolate	"
1	Iron Jelloids	"	1	Swedish Milk	"
1	Tyrosets	"		Diet	"
1	Tartare Sauce	"	1	Charabs	"
1	Lard	"	1	Concentrated Orange Juice	"
1	Yorkshire Relish	"		Essence of Rennet	"
2	Peanut Butter	"	1	Dates	"
1	Hot Chocolate	"	1	Herring Roes	"
1	Potato Salad	"	1	Corned Mutton	"
1	Portuguese Sardines	"	1	Tuna	"
1	Tea	"	1	Ham & Chicken Paste	"
1	Cocktail Sausages	"	1	Ground Cinnamon	"
1	Consomme	"	1	Scone Mixture	"
1	Chopped Chicken	"	1	Glucose	"
1	Gravy Salt	"	1	Haricots Beans	"
1	Herrings	"	1	Glace Cherries	"
1	Ravioli in Tomato	"	1	Tomato Ketchup	"
2	Meat Pudding	"	5	Ice Cream	"
1	Bovril	"	1	Salmon Paste	"
1	Marmite	"	1	Cream Jelly	"
1	Butter Beans	"	1	Pork & Beef Lunch Meat	"
1	Noodle Soup	"		Sage & Onion Stuffing	"
1	Gelatine	"	1	Orange Drink	"
1	Ground Cloves	"	1	F.C. Evap. Milk	"
1	Caraway Seeds	"	1	Salad Cream	"
1	Artificial Cochineal	"	1	Sugar	"
1	Camphorated Oil	"	1	Cough Mixture	"
1	Sal Volatile	"	1	Celabs	"
1	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	"	1	Almond Marzipan	"
1	Borax	"	1	Christmas Pudding	"
1	Yeast Tablets	"	1	Cheese & Tomato Spread	"
1	Parsley & Thyme Savoury Stuffing	"	1	Grated Parmesan	"
1	Scotch Oatmeal	"	1	Ground Nutmeg	"
1	Brisling	"	1	Demerara Sugar	"
2	Desiccated Coconut	"	1	Mint Sauce	"
1	Smoked Rainbow Trout Savoury	"	1	Gravy Browning	"
1	Curry Powder	"	1	Stuffed Pork Roll	"
1	E.D.S. Powder	"	1	Lemon Juice	"
2	Ground Almonds	"	1	Toothache Essence	"
1	Dried Mint	"	1	Jar Onions	Adult.
1	Shredded Beef Suet	"	1	Blancange Powder	Genuine
1	Macaroni Elbows	"	1	Pork Sausage	"
1	Baking Powder	"	2	Pork Sausage Not	Genuine
2	Buttered Cheese Spread	"	1	Cooking Fat	Genuine
1	Table Jelly	"	1	Split Lentils	"
			1	Cocoa	"

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS

There are 20 premises registered as dairies and 44 registered as distributors of milk in the Borough. There were also on the register 3 distributors operating from registered premises outside the Borough.

60 bottle rinse samples were taken and the standard of cleanliness was very good.

The following licences were granted:-

				<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>	<u>Pasteuriser</u>
Pastourised	...	...	...	42	-	1
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	36	3	-
Sterilised	...	...	...	3	1	-

274 samples of designated milk were examined and the results were as follows:-

Designated Milk Sampling

Designation	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	17	15	2
Pasteurised	255	255	-
Sterilised	2	2	-

DRINKING WATER

26 samples of water for bacteriological analysis from taps in various parts of the district were submitted with satisfactory results.

SWIMMING BATH WATER

95 samples of swimming bath water from the Open Air Swimming Pool and Knightstone Baths were submitted for bacteriological analysis, and were found to be of a high standard of purity.

The approximate number of bathers for the year was as follows:-

Open Air Swimming Pool	...	243,982
Knightstone Baths	...	128,552

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The gut scraping department which has now been operating at the Public Abattoir for a number of years has given no cause for complaint. This is the only established offensive trade in the Borough.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

This Order now places upon Local Authorities the responsibility of ensuring that all substantial collectors of waste foods (other than local authorities) obtain a licence imposing on them an obligation to use an approved boiling plant. In general every collector of waste foods must boil the material in a licensed plant before feeding it or redistributing it for feeding purposes. By this means the possibility of the spread of foot and mouth disease through waste foods should be eliminated.

There are 21 licensed collectors in the Borough and inspections of the boiling plants during the year were satisfactory.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Total number of inspections and visits.....	7,902
Nuisances or complaints	332
Cesspool	58
Cinemas and Public Buildings	11
Drainage:	
Inspections	297
Non-Power	54
Workplaces	21
Infectious Disease visits	8
Visits re Food Poisoning	3
Interviews with Owners etc.	238
Miscellaneous visits	266
Offensive accumulations	89
Public Conveniences	55
Pet Animals Act	3
Public and Private Refuse Tips	322
Rats and Mice	547
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials	12
Shops Act	205
Smoke Abatement	89
Stables and Piggeries	7
Tents, vans and sheds	266

WORK DONE

Houses repaired formally under the Housing Act	9
Houses repaired informally under the Housing Act	138
Rooms repaired	41
Roofs repaired or stripped and retiled or reslated	26
Floors relaid or repaired	16
Fire grates renewed or repaired	3
Doors repaired or new ones fixed	4
Stairs renewed or repaired	1
Windows renewed or repaired	30
Ventilations and/or lighting improved	1
Plastering of walls and/or ceilings repaired or stripped ...	58
Rain water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed	9
Walls pointed and repaired or rendered	15
External plaster repaired or re-rendered	15
Chimney stacks and flues repaired or re-built	5
Damp-proof courses inserted	1
Yards etc. paved, repaired or relaid	1
Refuse bins provided	2
Drainage:-	
Drains relaid at existing houses	2
Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired	6
Drains trapped and properly ventilated	4
New drain inspection chambers provided	2
Water closets or urinals repaired or reconstructed	2
New water closet flushing cisterns fixed	2
Water closet flushing cisterns repaired	5
Sanitary sinks provided	1
Waste pipes fixed, repaired or reconstructed	3
Nuisances from overflowing cesspools abated	2
Accumulations of rubbish removed	6
Ditches and back lanes cleansed	2

Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, etc:-

	<u>Rooms</u>	<u>Articles</u>
Tuberculosis	4	41
Cancer	6	56
Non-notifiable infections	18	27
Vermín	91	8
Scabies	2	-
Polionyelitis	-	6
	<u>121</u>	<u>138</u>

INSPECTION OF MEAT

The number of animals killed at the Public Abattoir was 64,647 as compared with 52,419 in 1957. Every animal was inspected as to fitness for human consumption.

The increase of 3,363 beasts killed at the Abattoir was mainly due to the Tuberculosis Eradication scheme carried out in the County of Somerset during the year. This required all beasts and calves reacting to the Tuberculin Test to be sent for slaughter.

59 cases of Cysticercosis bovis, (a parasitic disease transmissible to man) were detected during the year, an increase of 1 over the previous year. The number of cattle inspected, however, was considerably higher and the infestation rate was .5% as compared with .6% in 1957.

The following salvage was handed on to the Ministry of Food's Agent for residual recovery purposes:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Condernned Meat	259	0	2	17
Non-edible offals, etc.	476	10	1	27
Total	<u>735</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>

Animals Killed at the Public Abattoir

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Pigs	690	2,745	6,640	6,640	19,532	18,640	18,981	15,204	20,535
Sheep	26,542	21,769	27,101	31,969	25,620	18,110	25,351	25,793	30,371
Calves	8,400	11,995	10,508	7,582	4,119	2,970	3,716	2,708	1,664
Beasts	10,370	10,120	9,120	9,120	8,897	6,996	9,100	8,714	12,077

Difference from the year 1957

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
+ 3363	- 1044	+ 4578	+ 5331

being an increase of 12,228 animals.

The income from slaughtering charges, tolls and rentals was as follows:-

	£.	s.	d.
1950	4,225.	19.	6.
1951	4,366.	8.	9.
1952	4,332.	6.	6.
1953	4,592.	16.	10.
1954	5,605.	19.	5.
1955	6,741.	17.	6.
1956	9,162.	2.	10.
1957	8,706.	17.	10.
1958 including rentals and tolls etc. as below:-	10,541.	15.	6.
<u>Abattoir</u> Rentals	1,038.	0.	0.
Car Washing Fees	130.	2.	0.
Sale of manure to Parks Committee etc.	188.	3.	1.
<u>Cattle</u> Rentals	177.	16.	0.
<u>Market</u> Tolls	318.	15.	2.

DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was:-

<u>Tuberculous Meats:-</u>	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef and organs including 451 carcasses and 39 quarters	105	3	3	27				
Pigs and organs including 4 carcasses	1	19	3	10				
Veal and organs, including 8 carcasses and all offals		7	0	24				
					107	11	0	5
<u>Non-Tuberculous Meat:-</u>								
Beef and organs including 353 carcasses and 48 quarters	137	19	3	15				
Pigs and organs, including 83 carcasses and 74 quarters	8	6	3	21				
Shoep and organs including 87 carcasses and 35 quarters	4	8	2	2				
Calves and organs including 31 carcasses and 1 quarter		14	1	2				
					151	9	2	12
Total weight of all condemned meat					259	0	2	17

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	5665	6412	1664	30371	20535
Number Inspected	5665	6412	1664	30371	20535
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	119	234	31	87	83
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1393	2788	25	2082	1666
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	26.6%	47.1%	3.3%	7.1%	8.5%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	140	311	8	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1103	2208	-	-	485
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	21.9%	39.2%	0.4%	-	2.3%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	36	23	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	36	23	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

1958 - DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR

TOTAL	804 87 583 1,104 2,640 978 973 1,127	39 1 4 12 7 1	87 35 1 771 1,274 1	87 74 209 1,072 391 405
Inflammation	- - - 78 86 102 -	3 - - 2 7 -	- - - - -	- - - - - 88
Bruising	- 47 - - - - -	- - - - -	- 15 - - -	- - - - -
Decomposition	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	6 - 52 - -
Dead	- - - - -	- - - - -	6 - - - -	- - - - -
Jaundice	- - - - -	3 - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Inmaturity	- - - - -	13 - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Erysipelas	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Gangrene	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	2 13 - - -
Oedema	102 - - - - -	9 - - - -	36 - - - -	16 - - - -
Septicaemia	- - 36 - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Septic	- - - - -	- - - - -	6 - 89 - -	32 - - - -
Injury	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - 1	- 42 - - -
Cysticercus Bovis	- 59 59 - - 59	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Cystic	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - 422 636	- - - 241 -
Johne's Disease	- - - 380 -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Pneumonia	- - - 108 - - -	- - - - -	- 13 - 128 -	- - - 451 -
Peritonitis	14 - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Pericarditis	12 - 90 - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Emaciation	- - - - -	- - - - -	25 - - - -	- - - - -
Fever	127 - - - - -	- - - - -	14 - - - 112	14 - - 227 - 72
Angiona	- - - 614 - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Actinomyces	- - 82 109 - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Abscesses	- - 82 134 431 124 131 275	3 1 4 10 - 1	- 7 1 - - -	- 32 70 - 82 -
Cirrhosis (Distoma Hepaticum)	- - - 1177 - - -	- - - - -	- - - 132 526 -	- - - - 309 -
Tuberculosis	424 40 333 677 340 388 740 793	8 - - - - - -	- - - - - -	4 - 87 153 - 245
CATTLE:	Carcasses and offal Part Carcases Heads and Tongues Lungs and Hearts Livers Guts Tripes Skirts	CALVES: Carcasses Part Carcases Livers Plucks Guts Heads	SHEEP: Carcasses Part Carcases Heads Plucks Livers Guts	PIGS: Carcasses Part Carcases Heads Plucks Livers Guts

M E T E O R O L O G Y

1 9 5 8

The total sunshine of 1384.2 hours was the lowest recorded since 1936 (1299.7 hours) and well below the 10-year (1948 - 1957) average of 1663.9 hours. April, August and December had a deficiency of sunshine, and the hours recorded were the lowest since 1941 (127.4 hours) 1922 (130.3 hours) and 1927 (19.9 hours) respectively.

The rainfall total of 31.87 ins., although the highest since 1954 (36.69 ins.), was below the 10-year average of 32.54 ins. March and April were the driest months with 21 and 20 days respectively on which no rain fell. February and August the wettest with 7 rainless days only. The longest periods when no rain was recorded occurred from March 13th to 23rd (11 days), and from October 20th to 29th (10 days). At no period during the year did an "official drought" occur (15 consecutive rainless days).

The highest maximum temperature was recorded on July 19th (77°), and the lowest on January 24th (19°). The former was the lowest maximum temperature recorded in a year since 1928 (also 77°). In 1958 the thermometer only rose to 70° and over on 21 days, September being the best month with 7 days.

March had the lowest maximum temperature (54.5°) since 1932 (54°), and the lowest minimum (22.8°) since 1947 (20.8°). April's minimum temperature (27.7°) was the lowest since 1922 (27.5°). In May, however, the minimum thermometer did not fall below 42.6° , the first time since May 1933 (43°) it has remained so high.

Ground frosts occurred on 60 days, Fog on 31 days, and Snow on 5 days. Thunderstorms were recorded on 4 days, and Gale force winds on 4 days during the year.

MONTHLY RESULTS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS 1958

	AIR TEMPERATURES							Amount of Cloud 9 a.m.	Radiation	RAIN		SUN	Sea Temperatures.
	MEANS				EXTREMES					Amount Inches	No. of days with .04" or more		
	DRY	MAX.	MIN.	RANGE	MEAN	MAX.	MIN.						
January	40.6	45.2	36.2	9.0	40.7	53.4	19.5	6.1	33.9	1.75	11	60.4	44.2
February	44.2	48.5	39.1	9.4	43.8	58.9	28.4	6.9	32.7	3.49	13	44.4	42.8
March	39.9	45.9	34.8	11.1	40.3	54.5	22.8	5.9	29.3	.88	5	117.9	44.9
April	46.1	51.9	39.3	12.6	45.6	68.7	27.7	5.2	33.1	.87	5	147.4	49.5
May	54.3	59.7	47.1	12.6	53.4	73.9	42.6	5.1	41.3	2.41	11	202.2	58.6
June	59.1	64.3	52.5	11.8	58.4	72.4	48.5	5.5	50.2	3.65	10	191.1	62.8
July	62.7	67.8	55.9	11.9	61.9	76.9	48.9	5.6	52.8	1.85	10	184.8	65.5
August	62.1	67.2	56.5	10.7	61.9	71.9	49.8	6.4	53.3	2.33	15	136.9	65.7
September	60.3	65.9	54.6	11.3	60.3	74.9	45.7	6.2	* 50.7	4.96	14	119.6	64.0
October	53.3	58.1	48.7	9.4	53.4	61.8	38.7	5.8	43.5	3.23	11	108.7	55.7
November	45.6	49.9	41.8	8.1	45.9	59.0	31.0	6.7	37.1	2.22	9	49.1	49.7
December	41.9	46.1	38.3	7.8	42.2	55.0	29.0	6.7	34.5	4.22	16	21.7	45.1
Means and Totals	50.8	55.9	45.4	10.5	50.7	65.1	36.1	6.0	* 41.0	31.87	13.0	1384.2	54.0

* Incomplete owing to Grass Minimum Thermometer being out of order.

